



P.B. 5818 - Patentkan 2
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Zeichen/Ref./R&f. LEB/HL77096	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n° 00307873-0-2413/
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire SEGA CORPORATION	RECORDS

009

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,-) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable. This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC. See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.

☐ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

LEEDS ADMIN	
Date	10/08/03
Reminder	22/07/03
Date	01/08/03
Initials	22/07/03
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Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.

REGISTERED LETTER



European Patent
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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent Convention EP 00 30 7873

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	WO 96 25989 A (VELOCITY INC) 29 August 1996 (1996-08-29) * abstract * * page 2, line 6 - line 17 * * page 5, line 10 - line 28 * * page 7, line 1 - page 8, line 2 * * page 8, line 23 - page 9, line 2 * * page 12, line 8 - page 13, line 8 * * page 17, line 22 - page 18, line 4 * * page 18, line 24 - page 21, line 23 * * claims 1, 17, 21; figure 6 *	1-4, 7-10	A63F13/12 H04L29/06 H04L29/08
X	WO 99 32990 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV ; PHILIPS SVENSKA AB (SE)) 1 July 1999 (1999-07-01) * abstract * * page 3, line 21 - line 29 * * page 4, line 30 - page 5, line 32 * * page 6, line 21 - page 7, line 24 * --- -/-	1-4, 7-10	<div>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)</div> <div>A63F H04L</div>
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION <p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:</p> <p>see sheet B</p> <p>The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p>			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 3 July 2003	Examiner Nicu11u, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EPO FORM 1503 03/02 (P04C27)



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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 7873

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	WO 97 43846 A (KOUTS MICHAEL ; MCKELLER DAVID (CA); PLUMB MARC (CA); SHIELDS DANIE) 20 November 1997 (1997-11-20) * abstract * * page 4, line 17 - page 29 * * page 5, line 22 - page 7, line 2 * * page 8, line 27 - line 30 * * page 10, line 26 - page 11, line 22 * * page 12, line 5 - page 13, line 13 * * claims 1,3,5,11; figure 4 *	1-4,7-10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL.7)

EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C10)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 00 30 7873

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

03-07-2003

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			WO	9625989 A2	29-08-1996
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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 00 30 7873

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-4,7-10

synchronizing game devices in a network to the longest delay of any of the participating devices; compensating for different network latencies.

2. Claims: 5,6,11,12

displaying an image of objects arranged in a virtual space; rendering of virtual objects.

3. Claims: 13-16

setup of a communication between networked gaming devices.

4. Claims: 17,18

registration of game players.

5. Claims: 19-24

determination of the ranking of players in a network game.